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EXAMINER

GAUTHIER, GERALD

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2645

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

146

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/193,249

Applicant(s)

CHESTON ET AL.

Examiner

Gerald Gauthier

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____. |
| 2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. **Claims 1, 2, 15-17 20, 24, 34-36 and 43** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lennig et al. (U S 5,479,488) in view of Dowden et al. (US 5,181,237).

Regarding **claim 1**, Lennig discloses a voice-responsive messaging system comprising:

a voice processing unit (14 on FIG. 1) configured for recording a destination party identity ("For what business name", column 7, lines 17-21) and a destination address type ("What city", column 6, lines 34-41), spoken by calling party, for a corresponding message (column 7, lines 17-34) [The caller speaks the business name in reply to the prompt by the VPU];

a speech recognition unit (14A on FIG.2) for outputting data corresponding to identified words spoken by the calling party (column 7, lines 35-54) [The voice processing unit receives the spoken input from the caller];

and a master control unit (10 on FIG. 1) configured for generating a destination address query for an identified directory database (16 on FIG. 1) in response to identification of the destination party identity and the destination address type by the speech recognition unit (column 4, lines 37-55) [The control queries the local database for the destination party identity].

Lennig fails to disclose selectively initiates a transfer of the message to the destination party.

However, Dowden teaches a system, wherein the master control unit, in response to receiving a destination address reply from the identified directory database, selectively initiates a transfer of the message to the destination party based on the destination address reply (column 10, lines 37-68) [when the customer speaks any of the predetermined named, the message is delivered to the appropriate destination].

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use selectively initiates a transfer of the message to the destination party of Dowden in the invention of Lennig.

The modification of the invention will offer the capability of identifying the destination address such as the message will be deliver to the appropriate location when the subscriber speaks the name and the locality.

Regarding **claim 2**, Lennig and Dowden as applied to **claim 1** above differ from **claim 2**.

In addition, Lennig discloses a system further comprising a signaling network interface for sending the destination address query to the identified directory database, and for receiving the destination address reply from the identified directory database, via an interoffice signaling network configured for exchanging data between the voice-responsive messaging system and the identified directory database (column 4, lines 10-21).

Regarding **claim 15**, Lennig discloses a telecommunications network comprising:
a central office switching system (33 on FIG. 2) configured for receiving a line-sided connection with a calling party (40 on FIG. 2) [The calling party used the telephone line to call the system];

a directory database (16 on FIG. 1) for storing destination addresses for respective destination parties based on destination address type ("What city", column 6, lines 34-41), the directory database generating a directory response based on reception of the destination address query (column 4, lines 37-55) [The control queries the local database for the destination party identity]; and

a data network (18 on FIG. 1) for transporting the destination address query and the directory response between the unified message platform system and the directory database according to a prescribed data network protocol (column 4, lines 45-55) [The data network carries information from the remote database].

Lennig fails to disclose a unified message platform system comprising a speech recognition unit.

However, Dowden teaches a unified message platform system (52 on FIG. 1) comprising a speech recognition unit (column 4, lines 3-24) for identifying a destination party identity and a destination address type based on respective speech samples supplied by the calling party via the line-sided connection (column 3, line 65 to column 4, line 3), the unified message platform outputting a destination address query based on the destination party identity and the destination address type (column 10, lines 37-68)

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[when the customer speaks any of the predetermined named, the message is delivered to the appropriate destination].

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use outputting a unified message platform system comprising a speech recognition unit of Dowden in the invention of Lennig.

The modification of the invention will offer the capability of a unified message platform system comprising a speech recognition unit to identify the destination party and the destination address such as the message will be deliver to the appropriate location when the subscriber speaks the destination name and the destination locality.

Regarding **claim 16**, Lennig, Dowden as applied to **claim 15** above differ from **claim 16**.

In addition, Lennig discloses a system wherein the directory database selectively supplies one of an identified destination address and a null result in the directory response in based on executing the destination address query (column 7, lines 17- 28).

Regarding **claim 17**, Lennig, Dowden as applied to **claim 16** above differ from **claim 16**.

In addition, Lennig discloses a system wherein the unified message platform system selectively sends a message, selected by the calling party, to the identified destination address in response to reception of the corresponding directory response (column 4, lines 35-37).

Regarding **claim 20**, Lennig and Dowden as applied to **claim 15** above differ from **claim 20**.

In addition, Lennig discloses a system wherein the unified message platform system further includes:

a local directory database for storing (16 on FIG. 1), for each subscriber of the unified message platform system, a destination party identity (305 on FIG. 3A), a destination address (306 on FIG. 3A), and a message type corresponding to the destination address (FIG. 8); and

a master control unit configured for outputting the destination address query to the directory database via the data network based on a detected absence of the destination party identity in the local directory database (column 4, lines 35-42).

Regarding **claim 24**, Lennig discloses a method in a switched communications network comprising:

connecting a calling party via a line-sided connection (40 on FIG. 2) to an originating central office switching system serving the calling party (33 on FIG. 2) [The calling party makes a call through the end office];

processing speech samples spoken by the calling party on the line-sided connection to identify a destination party and a destination address type (column 7, lines 35-54); and

accessing a directory database (16 on FIG. 1) via a data network (12 on FIG. 1) for retrieval of the destination address corresponding to the destination party and the destination address type (column 4, lines 37-55) [The control queries the local database for the destination party identity].

Lennig fails to disclose a destination address to be utilized by the calling party for access to the destination party.

However, Dowden teaches the destination address type corresponding to a destination address to be utilized by the calling party for access to the destination party (column 10, lines 37-68) [when the customer speaks any of the predetermined named, the message is delivered to the appropriate destination].

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a destination address to be utilized by the calling party for access to the destination party of Dowden in the invention of Lennig.

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The modification of the invention will offer the capability of the destination address type corresponding to a destination address to be utilized by the calling party for access to the destination party such as the message will be deliver to the appropriate location when the subscriber speaks the destination name and the destination locality.

Regarding **claim 34**, Lennig discloses a telecommunications network comprising:
a central office switching system configured for receiving a line-sided connection (33 on FIG. 2) with a calling party (40 on FIG. 2) [The calling party used the telephone line to call the system]; and

a directory access system (16 on FIG. 1) for accessing destination address information for the destination party based on the corresponding destination address type (column 4, lines 37-55) [The control queries the local database for the destination party identity].

a speech recognition unit for identifying a destination party and a destination address type (14A on FIG.2) from respective speech inputs provided by the calling party via the line-sided connection (column 7, lines 35-54) [The voice processing unit receives the spoken input from the caller].

Lennig fails to disclose accessing the destination address information for the corresponding destination address type.

However, Dowden teaches a unified message platform system (52 on FIG. 1) configured for forwarding a recorded message based on accessing the destination address information for the corresponding destination address type (column 10, lines 37-68) [when the customer speaks any of the predetermined named, the message is delivered to the appropriate destination].

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use accessing the destination address information for the corresponding destination address type of Dowden in the invention of Lennig.

The modification of the invention will offer the capability of the destination address type corresponding to a destination address to be utilized by the calling party for access to the destination party such as the message will be deliver to the appropriate location when the subscriber speaks the destination name and the destination locality.

Regarding **claim 35**, Lennig and Dowden as applied to **claim 34** above differ from **claim 35**.

In addition, Lennig discloses a system wherein the directory access system includes a master control unit configured for generating a destination address query for an identified directory database in response to identification of the destination party (column 4, lines 29-35) and the destination address type by the speech recognition unit (14A on FIG.2), wherein the master control unit, in response to receiving a destination address reply from the identified directory database, selectively initiates a transfer of a message to the destination party based on the destination address reply (column 4, lines 35-41).

Regarding **claim 36**, Lennig, Dowden and Jones as applied to **claim 35** above differ from **claim 36**.

In addition, Lennig discloses a system further comprising a signaling network for transporting signaling messages (12 on FIG. 1), the directory access system comprising a signaling network interface (18 on FIG.1) for sending the destination address query to the identified directory database (20 on FIG. 1), and for receiving the destination address reply from the identified directory database, via an interoffice signaling network (30 on FIG. 1) configured for exchanging data between the voice-responsive messaging system and the identified directory database (column 4, lines 45-55).

Regarding **claim 43**, Lennig and Dowden as applied to **claim 1** above differ from **claim 43**.

In addition, Lennig discloses a system wherein the master control unit is configured for initiating a second destination address query for a second identified directory database in response to the destination address reply from the identified directory database (column 4, lines 37-42).

Claims 3-14, 16-19, 21-23, 25-33 and 37-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lennig in view of Dowden and in further view of Jones et al. (U S 5,193,110).

Regarding **claim 3**, Lennig and Dowden as applied to **claim 2** above differ from **claim 3** in that it fails to disclose a plurality of processing units.

However, Jones teaches a system further comprising:

a plurality of processing units, each configured for storing and processing a message for the calling party having a corresponding message type (30-30n on FIG. 1);
and

a digital switching system (26 on FIG. 1) for switching calls between an assigned Multi-Line Hunt Group (46 on FIG.2) and a selected one of the processing units (44 on FIG. 2), the master control unit selectively causing the digital switching system to establish a line-sided connection between the selected one processing unit and the calling party for retrieval of the message for the calling party (column 4, lines 32-38).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a plurality of processing units of Jones in the invention of Lennig and Dowden.

Doing so the system provider would search the directory on more than one processing units.

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Regarding **claim 4**, Lennig, Dowden and Jones as applied to **claim 3** above differ from **claim 4** in that it fails to disclose a forward command from the calling party.

However, Jones teaches a system wherein the selected one processing unit forwards the message to a destination address specified in the destination address reply in response to a forward command from the calling party (column 4, lines 50-52).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a forward command from the calling party of Jones in the invention.

Doing so the system provider would search the destination party on subscriber's request.

Regarding **claim 5**, Lennig, Dowden and Jones as applied to **claim 4** above differ from **claim 5** in that it fails to disclose a message protocol.

However, Jones teaches a system wherein the selected one processing unit supplies the message to the destination address according to a corresponding message type protocol (column 4, lines 52-58).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a message protocol of Jones in the invention.

Doing so the system provider would search the database via the network interface.

Regarding **claim 6**, Lennig, Dowden and Jones as applied to **claim 3** above differ from **claim 6**.

In addition, Lennig discloses a system further comprising a local directory database (16 on FIG. 1) for storing, for each subscriber of the voice-responsive messaging system, a destination party identity, a destination address, and a message type corresponding to the destination address (column 9, lines 20-30).

Regarding **claim 7**, Lennig, Dowden and Jones as applied to **claim 6** above differ from **claim 7**.

In addition, Lennig discloses a system wherein the local database stores a plurality of message types having respective destination addresses (column 9, lines 20-30).

Regarding **claim 8**, Lennig, Dowden and Jones as applied to **claim 7** above differ from **claim 8** in that it fails to disclose a different message types.

However, Jones teaches a system wherein the message types include a voicemail message type, an e-mail message type, and a facsimile message type (30-30n on FIG. 1).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a different message types of Jones in the invention.

Doing so the system provider would search the database directory with different type of messages.

Regarding **claim 9**, Lennig, Dowden and Jones as applied to **claim 8** above differ from **claim 9** in that it fails to disclose a plurality of processing units.

However, Jones teaches a system wherein the processing units include a voicemail processing unit for processing the voicemail message types, and an e-mail processing unit for processing the e-mail message type (30.3 and 30.5 on FIG. 1).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a plurality of processing units of Jones in the invention.

Doing so the system provider would identify a destination on subscriber's request.

Regarding **claim 10**, Lennig, Dowden and Jones as applied to **claim 9** above differ from **claim 10** in that it fails to disclose an e-mail processing unit capable of processing email and facsimile message.

However, Jones teaches a system wherein the e-mail processing unit is configured for processing the e-mail message type and the facsimile message type, the e-mail processing unit configured for converting messages between the e-mail message type and the facsimile message type (column 4, lines 58-65).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use an e-mail processing unit capable of processing email and facsimile message of Jones in the invention.

Doing so the system provider would transmit messages on subscriber's request.

Regarding **claim 11**, Lennig, Dowden and Jones as applied to **claim 6** above differ from **claim 11**.

In addition, Lennig discloses a system further comprising a network interface configured for sending and receiving at least one of the destination address query and the second destination address query to the respective directory databases via a data network (18 on FIG. 1).

Regarding **claim 12**, Lennig, Dowden and Jones as applied to **claim 11** above differ from **claim 12** in that it fails to disclose an internet access.

However, Jones teaches a system wherein the data network is the Internet (column 4, lines 45 and 50).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use an internet access of Jones in the invention.

Doing so the system provider would search more directory databases on subscriber's request.

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Regarding **claim 13**, Lennig, Dowden and Jones as applied to **claim 11** above differ from **claim 13** in that it fails to disclose a secured information directory database.

However, Jones teaches a system wherein the master control unit outputs, via the data network, security information to at least one of the directory database and the second directory database in response to reception of a security inquiry from the corresponding directory database (column 5, lines 44-51).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a secured information directory database of Jones in the invention.

Doing so the system provider would search for control data addresses on subscriber's request.

Regarding **claim 14**, Lennig, Dowden and Jones as applied to **claim 3** above differ from **claim 14** in that it fails to disclose a packet switched network.

However, Jones teaches a system wherein at least one of the processing units includes a network interface for communication with a packet switched network (30.2 and 32 on FIG. 1).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a packet switched network of Jones in the invention.

Doing so the system provider would search for directory address on the network.

Regarding **claims 18 and 32**, Lennig and Dowden as applied to **claims 17 and 24** above differ from **claims 18 and 32** in that it fails to disclose transported via the data network as TCAP query.

However, Jones teaches a system wherein the destination address query and the directory response are each transported via the data network as TCAP query and TCAP response messages, respectively [This system will accept all type of interfaces] (column 5, lines 23-27).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use transported via the data network as TCAP query of Jones in the invention of Lennig and Dowden.

Doing so the system provider would accept all type of interfaces.

Regarding **claims 19 and 33**, Lennig and Dowden as applied to **claims 17 and 24** above differ from **claims 19 and 33** in that it fails to disclose transported via the data network according to TCP/IP protocol.

However, Jones teaches a system wherein the destination address query and the directory response are each transported via the data network according to TCP/IP protocol (column 5, lines 23-27).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use transported via the data network according to TCP/IP protocol of Jones in the invention of Lennig and Dowden.

Doing so the system provider would transfer data via the network.

Regarding **claim 21**, Lennig and Dowden as applied to **claim 20** above differ from **claim 21** in that it fails to disclose a plurality of processing units.

However, Jones teaches a system wherein the unified message platform system further includes a plurality of processing units, each configured for storing and processing a message for each said subscriber according to a corresponding subscriber destination address and according to a corresponding message type (30.1-30.n on FIG. 1).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a plurality of processing units of Jones in the invention of Lennig and Dowden.

Doing so the system provider would identify a destination on subscriber's request.

Regarding **claim 22**, Lennig, Dowden and Jones as applied to **claim 6** above differ from **claim 11**.

In addition, Lennig discloses a system wherein the master control unit sends a message selected by the calling party from the corresponding processing unit to the destination address corresponding to the destination party identity (column 4, lines 37-42).

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Regarding **claim 23**, Lennig, Dowden and Jones as applied to **claim 21** above differ from **claim 23** in that it fails to disclose a plurality of processing units.

However, Jones teaches a system wherein one of the processing units supplies a destination address retrieved from the directory response based on the corresponding message type (S3, S4, S6, S8 and S13 on FIG.5).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a plurality of processing units of Jones in the invention.

Doing so the system provider would identify a destination on subscriber's request.

Regarding **claim 25**, Lennig and Dowden as applied to **claim 24** above differ from **claim 25** in that it fails to disclose a data protocol corresponding to the destination address type.

However, Jones teaches a system further comprising forwarding a message to a destination system corresponding to the destination address according to a data protocol corresponding to the destination address type (32 on FIG.1).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a data protocol corresponding to the destination address type of Jones in the invention of Lennig and Dowden.

Doing so the system provider would forward a message through the internet.

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Regarding **claim 26**, Lennig, Dowden and Jones as applied to **claim 25** above differ from **claim 26**.

In addition, Lennig discloses a system wherein the directory database selectively supplies one of an identified destination address and a null result in the directory response in based on executing the destination address query (column 7, lines 17- 28).

Regarding **claim 27**, Lennig, Dowden and Jones as applied to **claim 26** above differ from **claim 27**.

In addition, Lennig discloses a system wherein the identifier corresponds to at least one of a personal directory for the calling party, a public directory having a listing for the destination party, and a private directory serving the destination party (column 7, lines 17-47).

Regarding **claim 28**, Lennig, Dowden and Jones as applied to **claim 27** above differ from **claim 28**.

In addition, Lennig discloses a system wherein the private directory corresponds to one of a corporate directory listing the destination party as an employee, and a subscriber directory listing the destination party as a subscriber (column 7, lines 35-37).

Regarding **claim 29**, Lennig, Dowden and Jones as applied to **claim 25** above differ from **claim 29**.

In addition, Lennig discloses a system wherein the determining step comprises:
identifying a destination directory database based on identification for speech samples spoken by the calling party on the line-sided connection (column 7, lines 17-21);

accessing a database for retrieval of a network address for the destination directory database, the step of accessing the directory database including accessing the directory database based on the network address retrieved from the database (column 10, lines 40-44).

Regarding **claim 30**, Lennig, Dowden and Jones as applied to **claim 29** above differ from **claim 30**.

In addition, Lennig discloses a system wherein the step of identifying the destination directory database includes selecting from a group of available directories (column 9, lines 20-30).

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Regarding **claim 31**, Lennig, Dowden and Jones as applied to **claim 30** above differ from **claim 31** in that it fails to disclose the group of available directories.

However, Jones teaches a system wherein the group of available directories includes a personal directory stored on a personal computer (FIG. 3), a public directory (30n on FIG. 1), a corporate employee directory (30n on FIG. 1), an e-mail address directory (30.3 on FIG. 1), and a mailing address directory (30n on FIG. 1).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the group of available directories of Jones in the invention.

Doing so the system provider would have multiple destinations available.

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Regarding **claim 37**, Lennig and Dowden as applied to **claim 36** above differ from **claim 37** in that it fails to disclose a plurality of processing units.

However, Jones teaches a system wherein the unified message platform system further comprises:

a plurality of processing units, each configured for storing and processing a message for the calling party having a corresponding destination address type (44 on FIG. 2); and

a digital switching system (26 on FIG. 1) for switching calls between an assigned Multi-Line Hunt Group (46 on FIG. 2) connected to the central office switching system and a selected one of the processing units (30n on FIG. 1), the master control unit selectively causing the digital switching system to establish a line-sided connection between the selected one processing unit and the calling party for retrieval of the message for the calling party (column 5 lines 18-23).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a plurality of processing units of Jones in the invention Lennig and Dowden.

Doing so the system provider would have multiple destinations available.

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Regarding **claim 38**, Lennig, Dowden and Jones as applied to **claim 37** above differ from **claim 38** in that it fails to disclose a plurality of processing units.

However, Jones teaches a system wherein the selected one processing unit forwards the message to a destination address specified in the destination address reply in response to a forward command from the calling party (column 4, lines 50-52).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a plurality of processing units of Jones in the invention.

Doing so the system provider would have multiple destinations available.

Regarding **claim 39**, Lennig, Dowden and Jones as applied to **claim 38** above differ from **claim 39** in that it fails to disclose a plurality of processing units.

However, Jones teaches a system wherein one of the processing units supplies a destination address retrieved from the directory response based on the corresponding message type (S3, S4, S6, S8 and S13 on FIG.5).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a plurality of processing units of Jones in the invention.

Doing so the system provider would have multiple destinations available.

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Regarding **claim 40**, Lennig, Dowden and Jones as applied to **claim 38** above differ from **claim 40**.

In addition, Lennig discloses a system further comprising a local directory database for storing (16 on FIG.1), for each subscriber of the voice-responsive messaging system, a destination party identity, a destination address, and a destination address type corresponding to the destination address (column 9, lines 20-30).

Regarding **claim 41**, Lennig, Dowden and Jones as applied to **claim 40** above differ from **claim 41**.

In addition, Lennig discloses a system wherein the local database stores a plurality of destination address types having respective destination addresses (column 9, lines 20-30).

Regarding **claim 42**, Lennig, Dowden and Jones as applied to **claim 41** above differ from **claim 42** in that it fails to disclose a plurality of destination address types.

However, Jones teaches a system wherein the destination address types include a voicemail destination address type (30 on FIG.1), an e-mail destination address type (30 on FIG.1), and a facsimile destination address type (30 on FIG.1).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a plurality of destination address types of Jones in the invention.

Doing so the system provider would have multiple destinations available.

Response to Arguments


3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-43 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gerald Gauthier whose telephone number is (703) 305-0981. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on (703) 305-4895. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4750.


g.g.
June 14, 2002

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